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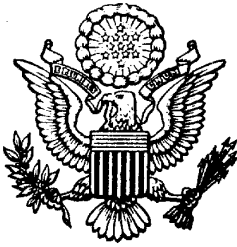
The attached material is sent for your retention in the belief that it may be of interest:

1. Daily Reviews of the Arabic Press.
2. Le Journal d'Egypte; 8 copies.
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DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MONDAY Evening July 25th, 1949.
TUESDAY Morning July 26th, 1949.

MONDAY Evening July 25th, 1949.

Cabinet Resigns.

Great prominence is given by the afternoon press to the Cabinet's unexpected resignation. In a second edition of Al Balagh (Wafdist) an account of the developments which preceded the resignation is given in detail. At about mid-day Prime Minister Abdel Hadi Pasha convoked his colleagues and reviewed with them the latest political developments. "After a meeting of about forty five minutes", says Al Balagh, "Abdel Hadi Pasha told correspondents that he had decided to submit his Cabinet's resignation to His Majesty the King, and that Hussein Sirri Pasha who had been recalled from France would be charged with the formation of a coalition government similar to that which was formed in 1936".

It was known, comments Al Balagh, that the "higher quarters" had for a long time been concerned for the political situation which was going from bad to worse, and they were very anxious that all the political parties should unite and spare the country the evils of party feuds. In fact, consultations with this object in view had begun early in Summer, and several meetings between higher Palace officials and a number of independent statesmen had taken place, chief among whom were Ali Al Shamsi Pasha, Bahiedin Barakat Pasha, Hafiz Afifi Pasha, and Hussein Sirry Pasha. The latter who was about to leave for France, was requested to give notice of his exact whereabouts in Europe so that it might be easy to get in touch with him if necessary. In fact, hardly had he been in France when an urgent cable called him back to Egypt. The rest is known to the reader.

Elsewhere, continues Al Balagh, efforts were made to persuade the promoters of the present regime to form a national Cabinet in which all the political parties should be represented: Mustafa Marii Bey, Minister of State, exerted strenuous efforts to persuade Abdel Hadi Pasha to consent to a coalition ministry, but Abdel Hadi Pasha strongly rejected the proposal and presented his Cabinet's resignation.

Political Situation.

Commenting on the Cabinet's resignation, Al Zaman (Independent), says that when Premier Abdel Hadi Pasha realized that there was a tendency to form a coalition government, he

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convoked his colleagues with whom he reviewed the situation, and they decided unanimously to resign.

The only candidate for the premiership is Hussein Sirri Pasha.

Coalition Ministry
To Supervise Elections ?

In its first afternoon edition Al Mokattam denied the existence of any ministerial crisis. But in a later edition Al Mokattam asserted that Premier Ibrahim Abdel Hadi Pasha had presented his resignation, and that Hussein Sirri Pasha had been invited to form the new Cabinet in which four ministers from every political party should participate. Al Wafd, continues Al Mokattam, has already held a meeting under the chairmanship of Mustafa Nahas Pasha to choose the four Wafdist ministers who would participate in the cabinet.

A Royal Decree will probably be issued to-night announcing the formation of the Cabinet.

Independent Minister For Interior.

Al Mokattam says that the rumour concerning the appointment of a neutral minister for the Interior to supervise the elections has not been without foundation. The daily asserts, however, that the talk about the Cabinet's precarious position is unwarranted!

Hofni Mahmud Pasha's Interview With
Al Mokattam.

Readers will remember Hofni Mahmud Pasha's recent interview with a correspondent of Al Mokattam (See our Digest of last Friday). Commenting on this interview, a prominent Liberal Minister said that Hofni Pasha relied on rumours circulated by the Opposition. "In justice to his party", said the Liberal, "he should have contacted us instead of blindly believing the Opposition".

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New Cabinet Ministers And Electoral Circumscriptions.

Commenting on the Cabinet's resignation Al Ahram says that after the conferences which Sirry Pasha, the Premier - designate, had with the leaders of the various political parties, it was agreed that the new Cabinet should be composed of three ministers to represent each of the Wafdist, Saadist, and Liberal parties, two nationalists, and two Independents. Al Kutla party refused to participate because its leader Makram Pasha stipulated certain conditions, among which was the abolition of martial law and the release of political prisoners, to which Sirry Pasha could not accede. Subsequently, Al Ahram says, it was decided that the Cabinet should be composed of 4 ministers to represent each of the Wafdists, Saadists, and Liberals, 2 ministers to represent the Nationalists, and 2 Independents.

The distribution of the electoral circumscriptions, adds Al Ahram, was also modified. Twenty per cent of the circumscriptions (i.e., 64) would be accorded to each party. The Liberals, however, demand guarantees that no encroachments would be made on their circumscriptions.

It is very likely that Sirry Pasha will retain the portfolio of Interior as a guarantee that the elections will be free.

Al Ahram learns from well-informed circles that an agreement on the ministerial change on the above basis had been reached with the Wafd sometime ago. It is affirmed on very good authority that Sirry Pasha's Cabinet will be a care-taker government until the results of the elections are known, after which the majority will form the Government.

----- Embargo On Ammunitions May Be Removed.

According to Al Ahram's London correspondent, British political circles believe that if the embargo on arms and ammunitions to the Arab States is removed, Iraq may remove the ban on oil to Haifa.

Next Meeting Of Arab League Council.

In an interview with the Alexandria correspondent of Al Ahram, Azzam Pasha said that the next meeting of the Arab League Council will take place in October and the League Charter stipulates that the meeting should be held in Cairo.

The King's Foresight.

In an editorial under the above headline, Mahmud Abul Fath, proprietor of Al Misri, comments on the Cabinet's unexpected resignation which he attributes to His Majesty the

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King's desire for political stability to replace the present state of unrest. "We would like to affirm", says Abul Fath, "that this welcome step has come from His Majesty the King and from no other source of influence.... The choice of Sirry Pasha at the present juncture is a very wise step, for he has always been known for his firmness, fairness, and probity. His reputation has never been tarnished by party feuds and passions".

Abdel Hadi Pasha's Letter Of
Resignation.

Al Misri is the only newspaper that has published the text of Abdel Hadi Pasha's letter of resignation to the King. It runs as follows:

"Your Majesty,

"You had graciously charged me with the government in very critical circumstances. With Your Majesty's wise steering and judicious counsels, we have been able to carry out our task in the best way.

"And now that the parliamentary session is nearing its end, the Cabinet places its resignation at Your Majesty's disposal that you may steer the country to its desired welfare".

Abdel Hadi Pasha Was Unaware.

Commenting on the developments which preceeded the Cabinet's resignation, Al Misri affirms that Abdel Hadi Pasha knew nothing about the cable sent to Sirry Pasha inviting him to return to Egypt. He first heard about it on Sunday afternoon, and even then he did not know what was going on behind his back. On Monday at 8 a.m. Haider Pasha called on him at his house and transmitted to him the following message:

"Our August sovereign the King who has the country's welfare at heart and who is anxious that security and tranquillity should prevail, wishes that a national government should now be in power. To this end His Majesty has called Hussein Sirry Pasha from Europe to charge him with the task of forming the desired government.

Knowing Your Excellency's loyalty to the Throne and your great patriotism, His Majesty hopes that you and your colleagues would facilitate Sirry Pasha's task".

This, says Al Misri, was a great surprise to Abdel Hadi Pasha who could not but submit.

It is understood that if Sirry Pasha fails to form a national Cabinet to guarantee freedom of elections, a Cabinet of independent ministers will be formed.

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Better Hope For Negotiations,
London Circles Believe.

Al Misri's London correspondent says that the feeling prevails that Abdel Hadi Pasha's resignation may prepare the way for Anglo-Egyptian negotiations. In fact the general feeling in London is that the cabinet's resignation marks the beginning of a new era between Egypt and Great Britain. The Foreign Office, however, cannot express an opinion on the situation in Egypt before receiving full details of the latest developments which have taken place at Bulkeley.

Arab Officers In Jewish Army.

Al Nida's Damascus correspondent says that according to secret reports recently received by the Syrian government, several Arab officers are said to exist in the Jewish army in Palestine and are probably occupying places of responsibility in the Jewish Intelligence Administration.

The relatives of these officers are being strictly watched by the Syrian authorities. It is presumed that most of the officers are from Haifa and Jaffa. Recently some of them have been promoted to very high posts in Israel.

It has also been revealed that some of their relatives live in Beirut and in Cairo. The Lebanese and Egyptian governments have been warned against the movements of these relatives, one of whom called Kotran lost in one night in a night club at Alexandria LE.8,000.

Between Saadists and Liberals.

Al Nida' says that the relations between the Saadists and Liberals have become very strained now that the Cabinet has resigned. Many Liberals are jubilant over the turn of events, and many of them feel that they have been avenged on Me. Hamed Gouda who had disgracefully discarded them in his famous project for the amendment of electoral circumscriptions.

King's Present To His People.

In an editorial by Ahmed Kassom Gouda, Al Nida' says that the appointment of Hussein Sirry Pasha as head of the Coalition Cabinet was the best present which His Majesty the King could offer to his people on the eve of Bairam. In facing the new era Egypt realizes the importance of the task lying before her. The heritage left by the old Cabinet is a heavy liability. The need is very great for a quick liquidation. It is expected that Sirry Pasha's Cabinet will clarify the atmosphere and prepare the way for free elections.

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Abdel Hadi Pasha's Resignation.

In a long report on Abdul Hadi Pasha's resignation, Rose El Yussuf says that this resignation did not come as a surprise to people who knew what was going on behind the scenes. During his recent trip to America, H.E. Khashaba Pasha, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, understood from his British and American friends at the United Nations that the desire was very strong for peace and tranquillity to prevail in the Middle East, and particularly in Egypt. This, says Rose El Yussuf, was a sufficient tip and it was understood from that moment that a change of government was very much desirable. The disagreement between the Saadists and Liberals made the situation worse and it became apparent that a radical change was inevitable. In order to ensure tranquillity in Egypt, the higher quarters realized that it was very essential to bring about a radical change.

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



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MORNING PAPERS.

WEDNESDAY July 27th, 1949.
(Editor: Maurice Fahmy)

The Ministerial Change.
Press Reaction And News.

The Arabic press devotes several pages to news and comments concerning the appointment of a new national government.

The Wafdist press expresses pleasure and praises His Majesty in glowing terms.

Al Kutla, mouthpiece of Al Kutla party, which is not represented in the government, is critical and alleges that the ministerial change was effected under pressure from the British.

The Saadist organ Al Assas argues that former Premier Abdul Hadi Pasha is a great man who put his country's interest before his party's. The paper prints a few lines here and there which are rather hostile to the Wafd which it still calls "The Opposition". The paper also stresses the fact that out of the eighteen ministers who constitute the new cabinet, ten have held portfolios in Abdul Hadi Pasha's Cabinet.

Akher Sa'a, the anti-Wafdist weekly, publishes items of news which would indicate that it is already intriguing against the present government which includes Wafdist Ministers and that it believes that the Wafd will gain a majority at the coming parliamentary elections.

Editorial Comments.

Under the headline: "A Happy Bairam", Al Misri says: "By the grace of Allah, this Bairam is the happiest feast Egypt has had for many a year. Our beloved king who is forever looking after the country's interests wanted to give a present to his loyal subjects this Bairam and could not have thought of a nicer present than this national cabinet."

"We kept asking for a coalition cabinet, but certain newspapers did not like this and abused us and the Wafd party for wishing to have all Egyptians cooperate with each other in these difficult times."

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"We do not wish to dwell on the attitude of those newspapers, but we would like to point out that by agreeing to join this Cabinet, Nahas Pasha and his party have shown that their policy is to please His Majesty before any other consideration. The Wafd agreed to join the Cabinet unconditionally and did not insist on certain portfolios. It was the first party to praise His Majesty's wise decision.

"The Wafd which represents the majority of the people has shown His Majesty by its decision to join the Cabinet that it is extremely loyal to him and very anxious to please him".

Sawt Al Umma's proprietor Yassin Sorag Eldino, brother of Minister of Communications Sorag Eldino Pasha, publishes in his paper the text of a cable he sent to the Grand Chamberlain thanking His Majesty for "his kindness and the nice present he gave to his subjects".

Under the headline "The King and his people", Sawt Al Umma says: "The country is happy for the first time in five years, thanks to His Majesty. This is a double feast. The elections will be conducted by a national government and will be absolutely free. The Cabinet is headed by a man who is known to be straight-forward, energetic, frank, neutral, and just. He has a difficult task. We wish him all the luck in the world. Long Live The King. Long Live Egypt".

Al Assas, Saadist, does not print a single word of praise for His Majesty on the occasion of the appointment of a new Cabinet, but merely congratulates him on the occasion of Bairam and wishes him many happy returns. It also gives a summary of Egypt's outstanding deeds in the foreign field during His Majesty's reign. In this paper's opinion these deeds are: Giving refuge to Haj Amin Al Husseini (the Mufti of Palestine), Emir Abdul Kerim, and the kings of Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Albania. Also Egypt's intervention to protect the Presidents of Syria and Lebanon against the French. Also (the paper mentions this at the end) Egypt's invasion of Palestine "to defend the liberty of the Arabs of Palestine".

Al Assas also publishes a short article under the headline "This regime in five years", in which it gives a summary of the so-called achievements of the Saadist-led Cabinets which ruled Egypt during the past five years.

Under the headline "Ibrahim Abdul Hadi's Cabinet", Al Assas says that Abdul Hadi's Cabinet has succeeded in stamping out terrorism and that Abdul Hadi Pasha is "a great patriot who resigned office thereby risking his reputation as well as his own life". He accepted office at a time when the acceptance of the premiership was tantamount to committing suicide, says Al Assas.

"Under the headline "Where is the disagreement", Al Assas says: "Wafdist circles exaggerated the so-called disagreement between the Saadists and Liberal Constitutionals. We publish here some photographs of Liberal and Saadists Members of Parliament talking to each other. What lie will the opposition press

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(note the daily's word "opposition") print in the future about Saadist-Liberal relations?" (It is interesting to note that the photographs to which Al Assas refers, show the Saadist and Liberal gentlemen looking glum-Ed.).

Al Kutla's attitude is decidedly hostile. It says that Al Kutla party's decision not to join the Cabinet was due not only to Sirry Pasha's refusal to abolish martial law immediately but also to the "fact" that the British had intervened to bring about this ministerial change.

Al Kutla sarcastically remarks also that Press Counsellor at the Royal Palace Kerim Thabet Bey, and proprietor of Le Egypte Edgard Gallad Bey (both are said to be political advisors to His Majesty) will shortly receive Pashahood. The daily publishes this item of news along with reports pertaining to the ministerial change and prints a host of exclamation marks at the end of the story.

Al Kutla also says that Makram Ebeid Pasha's decision not to join the Cabinet was supported by the party's executive at a special meeting.

Al Ahram publishes a short editorial in which it expresses full approval of the ministerial change.

News Pertaining To The Ministerial Change.

Al Ahram publishes a report from its London correspondent in which he says: "It is only just to state that London has always held the opinion that the last government did not truly represent the Egyptian people. London is now pleased that a national government has been formed."

The Arabic papers print the text of a statement made by His Majesty to the new Ministers when they were being sworn in. The statement is published in Le Progrés and need not therefore be translated in this Review. But one phrase is indeed significant and worth noting. The King said: "I have put the country's interest before any other consideration."

Al Misri says that Sirry Pasha has offered Abdul Maksud Ahmed Bey (of Bank Misr) and Mokhtar Rasmy Pasha (former Under-Secretary for Interior) Cabinet portfolios, but both have declined the offer.

Al Misri quotes Sirry Pasha as saying that his cabinet's main task is to hold the elections in a free atmosphere so that no party may have any reason to complain. He also said that martial law will be abolished completely on the day the King signs the Royal decree fixing the date of the elections. "Martial law will be abolished then until the elections end", added the Prime Minister.

Al Misri also says that Nahas Pasha wanted to have Abdul Fattah Al Tawool Pasha (member of the Wafd party) appointed Minister but the latter refused. Mustafa Masrat Bey was then appointed in his place as Minister of Commerce..

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Dividing The Constituencies Among
The Political Parties. The Versions Of
Al Misri And Akher Sa'a.

Al Misri says that the Saadist and Liberal parties have demanded that the constituencies should be divided among the political parties. In other words that the Saadist or Liberal Candidates in a certain number of constituencies should not be opposed by Wafdists, and vice versa. The Wafd refused, and it is now agreed that each constituency will be contested by candidates of the various parties.

Akher Sa'a, anti-Wafd, alleges that Sirry Pasha has told Abdul Hadi Pasha and Hoikal Pasha: "The Palace wants that a new page in Egyptian politics be opened and that the coming parliament should be composed of political parties which are represented with nearly equal number of seats so that no party may have the upper-hand and stability may be ensured. My Cabinet is rational and not a caretaker cabinet. It is not a bridge for a Wafdist Cabinet. I believe that no party should overshadow another at the elections". The magazine then goes on to allege that on the strength of Sirry Pasha's alleged statement, the Saadists and Liberals agreed to join the Cabinet. But then Sorag Eldine Pasha made a statement to the effect that the Wafd rejected the proposition concerning the distribution of the constituencies, that the Wafd wanted to be free to contest all the constituencies, and that the party which gains the majority should form a Cabinet. This changed the situation, says Akher Sa'a. The Saadists and Liberals argued that if the constituencies are not going to be distributed among the political parties, then there is no sense in their joining Sirry Pasha's Cabinet. In fact they stand to lose much by joining the cabinet seeing that, as members of a national government, they would be unable to attack the Wafd party at the elections and remind the voters of the 4th of February, 1942, incident, and of Nahas Pasha's corrupt administration.

Sirry Pasha, continues Akher Sa'a told the Saadists and Liberals not to worry. "Trust me", he is alleged to have said. "The Wafd will agree to the distribution of constituencies when the time comes. Do not embarrass the Wafd at this stage by insisting on this point". On the strength of Sirry Pasha's assurances, the Liberals and Saadists agreed to join the Cabinet, concludes the weekly.

Akher Sa'a says that millionaire Abboud Pasha was offered the portfolio of Finance or Foreign Affairs but he refused.

The same weekly says: "The new Cabinet will ask the parliament for a vote of confidence on Monday August 1st".

Akher Sa'a also says: "Acting chief of the Royal Cabinet Hassan Yussuf Bey ordered the staff of the palace not to talk about the elections under any circumstance. Any question or complaint concerning the elections which may be submitted to the palace must not be submitted to him but should immediately be forwarded to the Prime Minister.

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Sawt Al Umma says that Nahas Pasha and all the members of the Wafd party's executive (numbering some 500) will go to Ras El Tin Palace on July 27th to sign the Royal Register on the occasion of Bairam.

Will The Yemonite Dollar Be Tied
To The Egyptian Pound?

Al Assas says that the British government is exercising pressure on King Ahmed of Yemen to make him tie the Yemonite dollar to the pound sterling. The Imam, however, prefers to tie the Yemonite dollar to the Egyptian pound, and he will submit a formal request to this effect to the Egyptian authorities, alleges Al Assas.

Under the headline: "England wishes to gain control over Yemen. We reveal the secrets of the present negotiations between the two countries. Will Imam Ahmed make overtures to the U.S.A.?", Al Assas publishes a long message from its alleged Aden correspondent in which he alleges that Britain which sponsored the movement of Ibn Al Wazoor (who murdered King Yohia and was later beheaded) is now friendly towards the new King. A British envoy was sent to Yemen to submit certain proposals to King Ahmed and he was not altogether unsuccessful, alleges the alleged correspondent.

The envoy made the following proposals: Revision of the 1934 treaty or at least some protocols should be added to this treaty. Britain is willing to lend the Imam money as well as the services of her experts in order to prevent communism from spreading in Yemen. Yemen should formally agree to give Aden to Britain. Britain should be allowed to put a big garrison in Bab Al Mandab. Yemen should agree to let British firms prospect for oil in Yemonite mountains. Britain should be allowed to combat disease in Yemen and help raise the standard of living among the Yemonite people.

Al Assas' correspondents ends the story by saying that the Imam is so exasperated with the British that he may seek an alliance with the U.S.A.

Miscellaneous.

The Postal Service Under Egyptian Administration:

Akhor Sa'a devotes a whole page to stories concerning Egyptian postmen. One postman, Mohamed Abbas, was caught red-handed throwing in the street letters given to him for distribution. Questioned by the weekly why he did this he said that his salary was Pt. 14 daily (six days a week only), that he was expected to pay out of his own pocket for tram fares while on duty, and that the bag given to him by the administration for carrying the letters was torn. Another postman was caught in Old Cairo burrying the letters in a hole he had dug for this purpose.

Egyptian Christians unwanted:

Akhbar El Yom of July 23rd publishes an editorial in which it complains that an Egyptian firm has advertised for Egyptian engineers but stipulated that applicants should be Moslems. The weekly says that the firm's attitude is "criminal".